



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

3679

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of)

Examiner: ERIC K. NICHOLSON)

THOMAS L. WELSH,)
GLENN E. BURKET and)
JOSEPH E. DICK)

Group Art Unit 3679)

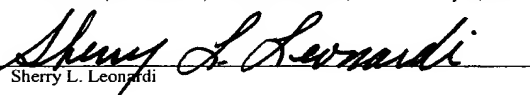
Confirmation No. 9215)

Serial No. 09/975,917)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Filed: October 10, 2001)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of this RESPONSE was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop NON-FEE Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this February 9, 2004.

For: CONNECTOR AND)
METHOD OF)
MANUFACTURE)
Sherry L. Leonardi

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Enclosed are the following documents:

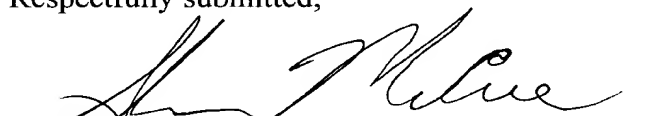
Response (w/attached Certificate of Mailing)

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AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,

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FEB 17 2004
GROUP 3600
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Akron, Ohio 44308
(330) 376-1242

February 9, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: FLN.P0002



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Sherry L. Leonard
Sherry L. Leonard

RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action Action mailed November 7, 2003, the Applicants, through their attorney, respond as follows.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.